

**CENTER FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL  
ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT**

***ACTION***  
**Agenda Item F-5**  
**November 13, 2000**

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**Recommendation:**

The staff recommends that the Council select Eastern Kentucky University and Murray State University as the site for the Center for Middle School Academic Achievement.

**Background:**

Senate Bill 77 (2000 regular session) directed the Council, in consultation with the State Department of Education, to select one or more postsecondary institutions to house a Center for Middle School Academic Achievement to improve teaching. The purpose of the Center is to improve the subject knowledge and instructional practice of middle school teachers by coordinating professional development programs, providing technical assistance, and disseminating information and research on effective teacher models. Senate Bill 77 calls for funding for the Center from the Department of Education's Teacher Professional Growth Fund for the 2000-2002 biennium.

The Council issued a request for proposals with advice from the State Department of Education and the Education Professional Standards Board. Reviewers included representatives from these agencies as well as out-of-state consultants experienced in middle-school reform. Three proposals were submitted and reviewed. Reviewers selected the proposal submitted jointly by Eastern and Murray State. It provided a comprehensive approach to professional development for middle school teachers across the state.